

Trial Hearing
WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-2082

(Open Session)

ICC-01/14-01/18

1 International Criminal Court
2 Trial Chamber V
3 Situation: Central African Republic II
4 In the case of The Prosecutor v. Alfred Rombhot Yekatom and Patrice-Edouard
5 Ngaissona - ICC-01/14-01/18
6 Presiding Judge Bertram Schmitt, Judge Péter Kovács and
7 Judge Chang-ho Chung
8 Trial Hearing - Courtroom 1
9 Wednesday, 22 March 2023
10 (The hearing starts in open session at 9.31 a.m.)
11 THE COURT USHER: [9:31:14] All rise.
12 The International Criminal Court is now in session.
13 Please be seated.
14 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:31:38] Good morning, everyone. Court officer,
15 please call the case.
16 THE COURT OFFICER: [9:31:44] Good morning, Mr President, your Honours.
17 Situation in the Central African Republic II, in the case of The Prosecutor versus
18 Alfred Yekatom and Patrice Edouard Ngaissona, case reference ICC 01/14 01/18.
19 And for the record we're in open session.
20 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:31:59] Thank you. I ask for the appearances of
21 the parties. Mr Belbenoit first.
22 MR BELBENOIT-AVICH: [9:32:07] (Interpretation) Good morning, your Honour.
23 Good morning to the Bench. The Prosecution is represented today by Mr Kweku
24 Vanderpuye, Mrs Irina Galupa, Yassin Mostfa and myself, Pierre Belbenoit Avich.
25 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:32:20] Mr Rabesandratana next.

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1 MS RABESANDRATANA: [9:32:23] (Interpretation) Thank you, your Honour, and
2 good morning. The LRV is represented by Mr Alexis Larivière, Mrs Evelyne
3 Ombeni and myself, Elisabeth Rabesandratana.

4 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:32:39] Thank you. Mr Suprun.

5 MR SUPRUN: [9:32:43] Good morning, Mr President. Good morning, your
6 Honours. The former child soldiers are represented by myself, Dymtro Suprun.
7 Thank you.

8 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:32:51] Thank you. Ms Dimitri.

9 MS DIMITRI: [09:32:53] Good morning, Mr President. Good morning, your
10 Honours. Good morning, everyone. Good morning, Madam Witness.
11 Mr Yekatom is present in the courtroom and he's represented today by Ms Anta
12 Guissé, Ms Yousra Lamqaddam, Ms Fiona Houdin, Mr Florent Pages-Granier and
13 myself, Mylène Dimitri.

14 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:33:08] Thank you. Mr Knoops.

15 MR KNOOPS: [9:33:11] A very good morning, Mr President, your Honours. Good
16 morning, everyone in the courtroom. Our team appears today before the Chamber
17 with Ms Sara Pedroso, Despoina Eleftheriou, Mathias Goffe and Tessia Monteiro.
18 And Mr Ngaissona is in the courtroom, Mr President. Thank you.

19 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:33:32] Thank you very much. And now we start
20 with the testimony of Prosecution witness, P-2082.

21 Madam Witness, do you hear and understand me well?

22 WITNESS: CAR-OTP-P-2082

23 (The witness speaks French)

24 (The witness gives evidence via video link)

25 THE COURT OFFICER: [09:33:58](Via video link) Mr President, this is the court

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1 officer in Bangui. We can hear English only. I'm sorry.

2 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:34:06] Okay, so we have to fix that. Hopefully
3 that can be done quick.

4 So I think we have now the right channel on the booth. So, again, Madam Witness,
5 sorry for the interruption. Good morning. My name is Schmitt. I am the
6 Presiding Judge of this Chamber and there's Judge Chung-ho on my left side and
7 Judge Kovács on my right side. Do you understand and hear me well,
8 Madam Witness?

9 THE COURT OFFICER: [09:35:06](Via video link) This is me here again, the court
10 officer. We still hear English only. It's not on the French yet. I'm sorry.

11 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:35:17] Well, I'm informed that it is simply that on
12 the booth there is some wrong channels, so -- switched to a wrong channel, so I would
13 be grateful if this could be fixed relatively quickly.
14 Please let me know when we can continue.

15 THE INTERPRETER: [9:35:49] Message from the interpreters: The AV technician is
16 assisting us in the booths. We hope to deal with this problem immediately.

17 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [09:36:37] Could we please be informed if this is an
18 issue that lasts a little bit longer, then we would go into the deliberation room and
19 would not sit here for minutes.

20 THE INTERPRETER: [9:37:02] Yes, it's fine now. We can listen to the French very
21 well.

22 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:37:06] Finally. So, Madam Witness, I address
23 you on behalf of the Chamber. Good morning. Do you hear and understand me
24 well?

25 THE WITNESS: [9:37:23](Interpretation) Good morning. Yes, I can understand you

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1 well, your Honour.

2 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:37:29] That is very good news. On behalf of the
3 Chamber, I would like to welcome you to the courtroom. You're called to testify to
4 assist this Chamber in the case of the Prosecutor against Mr Yekatom and
5 Mr Ngaïssona.

6 There are protective measures in place to protect your identity. This is the reason
7 why I address you not with your real name, but as Madam Witness. There is also
8 face distortion and voice distortion. I think this has been explained to you.

9 Madam Witness, there should be a card on the desk in front of you with a solemn
10 undertaking to tell the truth. Could you please read out loud the content of this
11 card?

12 THE WITNESS: [9:38:27](Interpretation) Solemn undertaking: I solemnly declare
13 that I shall speak the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

14 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:38:41] Thank you. Madam Witness, you're now
15 under oath.

16 Before we start with your testimony, please keep in mind that everything we say here
17 is written down and interpreted, so this takes a little bit of time, so I would kindly ask
18 you to speak at a relatively slow level. And, please, only start speaking when the
19 person that is asking you something has finished, and perhaps wait two or three
20 seconds so that everything can be interpreted smoothly. Thank you very much for
21 the moment.

22 I give the floor to the Prosecution, Mr Belbenoit.

23 QUESTIONED BY MR BELBENOIT-AVICH: (Interpretation)

24 Q. [9:39:32] Good morning, Witness. You remember that we met some weeks ago.
25 I am Pierre Belbenoit Avich. I'm a trial lawyer and I am going to examine you today

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1 on behalf of the Prosecution.

2 First of all, I'd like to thank you for your availability. It's very important that you
3 can testify here. And I'm just going to remind you that you've granted protective
4 measures within the framework of your deposition and these measures are aimed at
5 protecting your identity from the public, so this is why all questions that are
6 identifying will be asked in private session. If at any point of time when we're in
7 public session, and if there is an answer that could identify you, please let me know
8 and I will request that we move to private session. Do we agree on that?

9 A. [9:40:33] Yes, we do.

10 Q. [9:40:36] Now, with regards to logistics, if I ask you a question which is not clear
11 or you do not understand, please do not hesitate to let me know and I will repeat it or
12 reword it.

13 A. [9:40:52] Okay.

14 Q. [9:40:56] I will examine you for about two hours. First of all, I'm going to ask
15 you certain questions on your identity, and then I will ask you some basic questions
16 on the witness statement that you gave to the OTP investigators in 2019, and then I
17 will ask you some clarification questions to get some additional information.

18 MR BELBENOIT-AVICH: [09:41:25] Your Honour, with your kind leave, could we
19 move to private session?

20 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:41:29] Of course.

21 (Private session at 9.41 a.m.)

22 THE COURT OFFICER: [9:41:43] We are in private session, Mr President.

23 (Redacted)

24 (Redacted)

25 (Redacted)

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11 (Redacted)

12 (Open session at 9.43 a.m.)

13 THE COURT OFFICER: [9:43:05] We are in open session, Mr President.

14 MR BELBENOIT-AVICH: [9:43:11] (Interpretation)

15 Q. [9:43:12] Witness, is it true that you were interviewed by the OTP investigators
16 in May 2019 and they took a witness statement from you?

17 A. [9:43:24] Yes.

18 Q. [9:43:25] And I understand that at the end of February last you reviewed the
19 statement and you made a few corrections.

20 A. [9:43:35] Yes, that's true.

21 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:43:38] Wait a second. Ms Dimitri.

22 MS DIMITRI: [9:43:41] If I can just make a plea for the interpreter. There's no break
23 between question and answers and they're struggling.

24 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:43:48] So, Madam Witness, please wait with your
25 answer two or three seconds, please, so that the interpreters can follow. Thank you

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1 very much. And the same applies also for Mr Belbenoit, of course.

2 MR BELBENOIT-AVICH: [9:44:10] (Interpretation)

3 Q. [9:44:10] Madam Witness, could you confirm that the information contained in
4 the statement that you made and the corrections that you made are truthful to the
5 best of your recollections?

6 A. [9:44:26] Yes, the information is true.

7 Q. [9:44:37] Do you agree that your statement can be used as evidence in this case?

8 A. [9:44:44] Yes; why not?

9 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:44:48] Okay. Then we can state for the record
10 that the conditions for the witness statement CAR-OTP-2109-0452, that's the English
11 version, with the corrections made -- I don't know which -- I don't have the CAR-OTP
12 here -- but with the corrections made, are fulfilled with regard to Rule 68, paragraph
13 3.

14 MR BELBENOIT-AVICH: [9:45:27] (Interpretation) Thank you, your Honours. The
15 translation bears the number CAR-OTP-2122-4558. And the corrections that the
16 witness made are registered under the number CAR-OTP-00001220.

17 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:45:46] Thank you.

18 MR BELBENOIT-AVICH: [9:45:55] (Interpretation).

19 Q. [9:45:55] Witness, now I'm going to ask you questions in order to get some
20 clarifications or additional information with respect to the information that you've
21 already given to the OTP investigators in May 2019 and that appear in your statement.
22 The objective is not that you repeat what you said at that point of time, because it's
23 already there as evidence. I'm going to ask you very specific questions on the
24 following points: First of all, the knowledge that you could have on the other
25 demobilisation or rehabilitation operations of children coming from the Anti-Balaka

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1 group over and above what you spoke in your declaration, in your statement.
2 Then I'm going to ask you certain additional questions on the demobilisation and the
3 rehabilitation process of children that -- of children that were given in -- by Yekatom
4 that happened in Pissa and Mbaiki. And then I'm going to ask you questions on the
5 discussions you've had with some of these children.

6 MR BELBENOIT-AVICH: [09:47:13] So, with your leave, your Honour, could we
7 move to private session?

8 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [9:47:19] Private session.

9 (Private session at 9.47 a.m.)

10 THE COURT OFFICER: [9:47:41] We are in private session, Mr President.

11 (Redacted)

12 (Redacted)

13 (Redacted)

14 (Redacted)

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2 (Open session at 10.20 a.m.)

3 THE COURT OFFICER: [10:20:31] We're in open session, Mr President.

4 MR BELBENOIT-AVICH: [10:20:41] (Interpretation)

5 Q. [10:20:48] So you've explained to us that you were with the children. Did some
6 of these children -- now, even though their ages had already been recorded by the ESF,
7 during these discussions in Pissa, did these children happen to mention their ages to
8 you?

9 A. [10:21:01] Yes. That was the first question I put to them. And the last was
10 only 11. I'd identified the younger ones. I remember asking one child, and he was
11 11 years old. So the age -- ages range from 17 to 11.

12 Q. [10:21:34] Did some of the children you were talking to whose age you asked tell
13 you that they were 15 or under 15, other than this child who said he was 11?

14 A. [10:21:46] Yes, I said the ages ranged from 17 to 11. There were 17 -- there were
15 kids aged 17, 16, 15, 14, and so on, and the youngest was 11.

16 Q. [10:22:01] Very well. So some children told you clearly that they were 15 or 14,
17 right?

18 A. [10:22:08] Yes, yes.

19 Q. [10:22:14] Do you remember -- do you remember the children who told you that
20 they were 15 or 14 or -- in relation to their experience within the Anti-Balaka, these
21 children between 15 and 11, what did they tell you about their time with the
22 Anti-Balaka?

23 A. [10:22:41] Well, I really didn't delve into that area because I realised they were
24 children. I just asked them how did -- I just asked them how did they end up there.
25 Some said that they were forcibly taken. Others said that they were walking with

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1 their parents and they were taken. Others said that they themselves went
2 voluntarily, they voluntarily went to join the group. So that was the kind of
3 information that I was able to obtain from the children.

4 Q. [10:23:19] So these children who said they were between 15 and 11, did they
5 give you any information about the group that they belonged to? Did they
6 recommend -- did they perhaps mention where they were based or who their leader
7 was?

8 A. [10:23:36] No, no, no. All that sort of work was done by *Enfants Sans Frontières*.
9 That NGO went all the way to their base, I believe, and myself -- perhaps with them,
10 with Kongaye I'm not so sure. I just received the report. Sometimes they were
11 verbal reports from my section heads. You see, he had a motorbike so he could
12 travel about, gather information, that sort of thing. That's all. That was all.

13 Q. [10:24:25] Very well. You mentioned that some of these children who said they
14 were between 15 and 11 said that they had been taken by force and were made to join
15 the Anti-Balaka. Now, I realise you don't have a lot of detail about this, about what
16 you were told in Pissa. Did these children tell you about activities that they took
17 part in within the Anti-Balaka? Do you remember?

18 A. [10:25:03] They said that sometimes they were with the grown-ups or the older
19 ones. They would be taken and they would go off to engage in vandalism or even
20 go to the fields and get cassava or they might have cooked some cassava. I really
21 didn't focus on what they were doing.

22 Q. [10:25:42] Right. You explained that the goal of this mission was to check the
23 children's age. Was that why the list of children had to be cross-checked with the
24 officials from the Anti-Balaka group?

25 A. [10:26:05] Yes. They were cross-checked. *Enfants Sans Frontières* did that with

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1 the Anti-Balaka. They did the cross-checking. *Enfants Sans Frontières*, they were the
2 ones who had the lists. That was their job. It was a project. You have to realise it
3 was a project, and myself, I was just an administrator and I went to arrange things so
4 that the ministry might have information and so that we could ensure that those
5 children were indeed demobilised and returned to society. That was my job. That
6 is what I was supposed to do.

7 Q. [10:26:57] Right. Just to make sure things are crystal clear, so these lists drawn
8 up by ESF were later checked, the names of the children were cross-checked with
9 people from Yekatom's group?

10 A. [10:27:19] Yes. Because they checked to determine whether these children were
11 indeed --

12 THE INTERPRETER: [10:27:25] Inaudible.

13 MR BELBENOIT-AVICH: [10:27:30] (Interpretation) Could we go back into private
14 session, your Honour?

15 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [10:27:34] Private session.

16 (Private session at 10.27 a.m.)

17 THE COURT OFFICER: [10:27:53] We are in private session, Mr President.

18 (Redacted)

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15 (Open session at 11.32 a.m.)

16 THE COURT OFFICER: [11:32:35] We're in open session, Mr President.

17 MR BELBENOIT-AVICH: [11:32:44] (Interpretation)

18 Q. [11:32:46] Paragraph 40 of your statement, you said, and I quote: Since
19 Yekatom didn't want to attend this ceremony in Mbaïki, an Anti-Balaka delegation
20 from Bangui led by the Legrand Ngaya -- by Legrand Ngaya attended the event.

21 My question is this: Why did Yekatom not attend this event?

22 A. [11:33:14] I don't know. I think he might have had some -- something else that
23 kept him from going.

24 Q. [11:33:28] Thank you. Do you know whether other people from Yekatom's
25 group were in attendance at this ceremony held on 5 August 2014?

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1 A. [11:33:41] There was some talk about that, some talk about him attending
2 personally. Ultimately, I believe two people, two Anti-Balaka members from Bangui
3 were going to attend, and those people -- that was Mr Ngaya, (Redacted), who I
4 mentioned here.

5 Q. [11:34:13] Very well. So, you just mentioned or alluded to the fact that two
6 Anti-Balaka people from Bangui had attended. Do you know under what
7 circumstances this Anti-Balaka delegation came from Bangui? How did that come
8 about?

9 A. [11:34:37] I don't know. Yekatom must have told them to go. Perhaps he
10 wasn't able to attend. I waited, just like everyone else, and that was about it. So
11 those two people came and they attended and we began the ceremony.

12 Q. [11:34:59] Very well. And at paragraph 40, you also said that -- do you have
13 any information about Ngaya representing Yekatom during the ceremony?

14 A. [11:35:21] No. I believe -- now, was he -- I don't have specific information. All
15 I can tell you is that Mr Ngaya said that he was representing the Anti-Balaka group at
16 the national level, *that's it. But the specific information, whether it was in the
17 middle of the ceremony, we heard that Mr Yekatom would attend, and instead these
18 two other people came from Bangui, and they were some of the Anti-Balaka people.
19 We couldn't wait because we had to go back to Bangui, so we held -- we proceeded
20 with the ceremony.

21 Q. [11:36:29] Right. Could the court usher put CAR-OTP-2109-0473 up on the
22 screen. This is tab 7 of the OTP list.

23 Madam Witness, this is the second report you provided to the indicators, and this is at
24 page 17 of your statement. You said that this was drafted by Mr --

25 THE INTERPRETER: [11:37:15] Excessive speed.

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1 MR BELBENOIT-AVICH: [11:37:19] (Interpretation)

2 Q. [11:37:19] The report is entitled "Project activities for the assistance and return of
3 children to society".

4 A. [11:37:46] Yes, go ahead.

5 Q. [11:37:50] The page numbers were 0477 and 0478, second paragraph. Now on
6 this paragraph. We find a summary -- a short summary of the various remarks
7 made or speeches given during this event, and I'd like to ask you to look at the second
8 paragraph where we read:

9 "The representative of the national coordinator of the Anti-Balaka was the second
10 person to take the floor, and he called upon the people and the neighbourhood
11 leaders to support the work that the NGO was carrying out by providing supplies to
12 the EAFGA."

13 First question: Is this an accurate summary of the speech that Ngaya made during
14 the ceremony, to your knowledge, or to your recollection, rather?

15 A. [11:39:06] I remember, (Redacted) was a community approach, and
16 so, in general terms when an activity is carried out in a particular location, (Redacted)
17 (Redacted) the local people involved. (Redacted) the population, particularly the
18 authorities, at all levels. Now, you see, we were talking about a lot of children -- 70
19 children, so it was no easy task to feed them all. So, we were asking if people of
20 good faith could assist and -- we were asking if people could help, because the NGO
21 had to feed these children. So I think that is right. He called upon -- that -- well, he
22 said that people shouldn't *think these people should be rejected because they were
23 Anti-Balaka. But that since they were children, they should be helped. He was
24 stressing that these were children. They had to be accepted. They had to be
25 assisted. So I think that was where he was coming from when he made his remarks.

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1 Q. [11:40:35] Thank you, Madam Witness.

2 Could we go back to private session, but just for one or two questions?

3 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [11:40:46] Shortly, back to private session.

4 (Private session at 11.40 a.m.)

5 THE COURT OFFICER: [11:41:05] We are in private session, Mr President.

6 (Redacted)

7 (Redacted)

8 (Redacted)

9 (Redacted)

10 (Redacted)

11 (Redacted)

12 (Redacted)

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24 (Redacted)

25 (Open session at 11.43 a.m.)

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1 THE COURT OFFICER: [11:43:49] We are back in open session, Mr President.

2 MR BELBENOIT-AVICH: [11:43:57] (Interpretation)

3 Q. [11:43:58] At paragraph 44 of your statement, you explain that on the first day
4 that you were in Mbaiki, you talked to four children and then two more joined you,
5 and the second night you spoke to 13 children. Could you explain to us under what
6 circumstances did you have these conversations with these children?

7 A. [11:44:26] These were children who had come up to me and asked me where * I
8 was staying and I pointed it out to them, and they came, and they asked a lot of
9 questions about their lives, how to find their way out, how to find their parents,
10 because I told you that some of these children had come from very far away. And
11 the way -- well, they wanted to know how long it was going to last -- questions like
12 that, about their own lives.

13 And I gave them some advice, because some of them were saying that they wanted to
14 go back to the camp, and I gave them some information about the risks that they
15 would be running, and if it were me, you would go back to school or get some
16 vocational training so that you could find your way out. So, these were questions
17 about their own lives.

18 When we intervened there, they thought that since I was a mother, that maybe I
19 would help them. Some asked if they could go back with them, whether they could
20 have a spot in my vehicle and go back and I said, "No, this is an organisation. It's
21 children without borders who will help you."

22 So, they were asking questions about the organisation, about their lives, and -- you
23 see, their behaviours needed to change, their attitudes needed to change, so I was
24 providing advice and I was explaining that this is an organisation *and that should
25 not run away. And if they ran away, it would only make things worse and that it was

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1 better for them to stay so that we could achieve our goals.

2 Q. [11:47:17] You explained just a few moments ago that some of the children said
3 to you that -- that they wanted to go back to the camp. I know that this was a long
4 time ago, but do you remember -- could you tell us about -- about what age were
5 these children, these children who said they wanted to go back to the camp?

6 A. [11:47:47] The youngest one -- the younger ones, plural -- 14 years old -- 13 or 14.
7 I would say, 13 or 14, even the youngest one. He said that he was so far away from
8 his parents and he would rather go back, and I explained to him that he had to be --
9 become an adult. And that particular child, I entrusted personally to the section
10 head and he was taken in by a foster family. He was trained, and I believe he
11 became a carpenter or a mason, something like that. But he stayed in Mbaiki,
12 although it was not even a year later that I left, so I didn't stay, you see, to conduct
13 investigations to determine whether some of them remained loyal or not.

14 I talked about this (Redacted)

15 (Redacted)

16 (Redacted)

17 Q. [11:49:17] Very well. So he explained that the children who were 13 or 14
18 wanted to go back to the camp. Now, I realise this was a long time ago. Which
19 camp were they talking about? Where were they based?

20 A. [11:49:36] No. They just said they wanted to back to the camp. I think they
21 were talking about Pissa -- around Pissa where the Anti-Balaka camp was located.
22 I'm not so sure. It was in the bush, I hope. They weren't talking about the centre.
23 These were children who were almost delinquent, who had joined the group but now
24 we were trying to get them out of that group and they already were wanting to go
25 back. They were already delinquents.

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1 Q. [11:50:23] Very well. If I've understood what you just said, you really needed
2 to convince those children to take part in the programme; is that what you're saying?

3 A. [11:50:33] Yes. Yes. That was my task, truly, and I was very committed to
4 that task. I really wanted to -- well, I don't know. After me, a change -- the
5 problem is, I would have liked an NGO to have a follow-up project or a post-project.
6 We had the project. We got them. We demobilised them. We returned them to
7 society, but there should have been a follow-up project, or at least for a while to make
8 sure that those children might receive vocational training and -- a follow-up project to
9 make sure that they continued.

10 The problem, you see, if they were to go back to their earlier poverty, they would be
11 certain to go back to their camp, so I tried to explain that. We had already started
12 with this organisation, and we wrote something about a post-project activity, about
13 activities undertaken.

14 Q. [11:52:08] Right. Now, you explained that the children hesitated to join the
15 programme. Now, some of the children who are on the ESF list, did they actually go
16 back to their camp and not take part in the process?

17 A. [11:52:24] No, they all took part in the process, because at least there they had
18 food to eat. They were in their group. They played, they had activities together for
19 three months, so they stayed. But it was later on, I said to myself in general terms, a
20 follow-up was needed. That's what I was thinking -- follow-up. And you could --
21 well, I don't know.

22 The NGO said -- when I went to --

23 THE INTERPRETER: [11:52:59] Inaudible.

24 THE WITNESS: [11:53:02] (Interpretation) -- I had a lot of work. I couldn't
25 continue with my colleagues. One of my colleagues was supposed to continue with

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1 that, but apparently she didn't.

2 MR BELBENOIT-AVICH: [11:53:19] (Interpretation)

3 Q. [11:53:20] Right. At paragraph 43 and 53 you gave some specific information
4 about these children. I won't hark back to that, but about the circumstances of these
5 conversations, I realise that these were not individual conversations but, rather, they
6 were group conversations.

7 A. [11:53:44] Yes. The conversations were in groups, and then after that I
8 removed the children who were hesitant and I spoke to them individually. The ones
9 who hesitated did not want to go to Mbaiki, and I showed them -- well, I tried to
10 show them that it was just common sense if they wanted to be successful in their lives,
11 if they wanted to earn money or whatever, they -- those children, some of them
12 wanted to join the military. They wanted to become soldiers. They got a taste for
13 military life, and I was trying to dissuade them, but they stayed right until the end of
14 the project. They stayed the -- the 70 of them stayed right until the end of the project.
15 But as for the others, I no longer remember.

16 Q. [11:55:11] I realise this was a long time ago, but these children who said that
17 they wanted to join the armed forces and become soldiers, do you remember, in
18 approximate terms, how old were those children?

19 A. [11:55:26] Once again, they were between 15 and 17. I was talking about the
20 older children in the group.

21 Q. [11:55:40] Let me backtrack briefly to the identification of the children. Do you
22 know whether some of the children in the group refused to be on the lists drawn up
23 by the ESF who refused to be part of the process?

24 A. [11:56:05] I'm -- I'm not really sure because, first of all, they were the ones who
25 drew up their own lists and then showed us. I was to the side, and most of the

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1 documents were with the prefectural section head. He was the one who was with
2 them. He was the one who was running the activity, who was responsible for
3 implementation of the activity.

4 Q. [11:56:43] Let me hark back to the conversations that you had with the children
5 in Mbaïki. First of all, you spoke to the children on the first day. How much time
6 did you spend speaking to those children that first day?

7 A. [11:56:57] I believe 1830 to 1930, because they had to go back to their base to
8 have their dinner, so I think it was from 1830 to 1930, about almost an hour or more.

9 Q. [11:57:26] And regarding these conversations with the children on the second
10 day, how much time did those particular conversations take? How much time did
11 you spend speaking?

12 A. [11:57:39] The second day was a bit more relaxed. Already the children had
13 understood. They had been thinking, and when they came back, some came back to
14 apologise and say, "Ma'am, we didn't realise that the project" -- because the project
15 had not been explained to them very well. They thought they would just come, have
16 a meal and leave. Some came and -- some came and asked, "Well, if ever they were
17 to go to Bangui" and then I said that the door was open. We really didn't spend a lot
18 of time with them.

19 Q. [11:58:43] You are giving us a very detailed account of these conversations with
20 these children. Now, did the children speak to you in a spontaneous fashion, or did
21 they answer questions that you put to them?

22 A. [11:58:56] Some spoke spontaneously, sometimes it was them asking the
23 questions. In some cases, I would ask them questions to get more information. It
24 was really a two-way discussion.

25 Q. [11:59:22] At paragraph 45 of your statement, you said, and I quote: The age

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1 range was between 11 and 17. I no longer remember how many were under 15, and
2 it was difficult for me to know what the exact age was of each child.

3 Would you be in a position -- I beg your pardon?

4 A. [11:59:51] Go ahead.

5 THE INTERPRETER: [11:59:53] Overlapping.

6 MR BELBENOIT-AVICH: [11:59:56] (Interpretation)

7 Q. [11:59:56] In approximate terms, how many children with whom you spoke
8 were under 15 years of age? Do you remember that, just a general idea?

9 A. [12:00:09] That's difficult because you see --

10 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:00:18] Ms Guissé.

11 MS GUISSÉ: [12:00:20] (Interpretation) I beg your pardon. I object, because the
12 witness is being encouraged to engage in speculation. It's clear from her statement
13 she said: I no longer recall how many were under 15. I don't really think we
14 should be trying to have the witness say something when she's already said that she
15 doesn't remember. We should not urge the witness to engage in speculation. The
16 Prosecution is going too far.

17 MR BELBENOIT-AVICH: [12:00:54] (Interpretation) If I could respond?

18 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:00:56] Yes.

19 MR BELBENOIT-AVICH: [12:01:03](Interpretation) She says that she no longer
20 remembers how many were under 15. My question was in approximate terms. My
21 question is much more general. I just am trying to determine what proportion of the
22 children were under 15. So it's -- it's vaguer, it's broader.

23 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:01:24] Madam Witness, you have heard the
24 conversation. Can you give an approximation? Do you feel able to do that? And
25 if you say that's too difficult, that's too long ago, you can say so, too.

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1 THE WITNESS: [12:01:48](Interpretation) Currently, it's very difficult because it was
2 6:00 in the evening and it was rather late. And -- and where I was there was no
3 seating area, so we were forced to basically keep standing. We just casually spoke.
4 I did not even have the idea to see how old these children were. I mean, I'm not
5 aware.

6 MR BELBENOIT-AVICH: [12:02:37](Interpretation)

7 Q. [12:02:38] Well, that's not a problem at all, Witness.

8 Now, when you had discussions with the children in Mbaiki, did some speak about
9 their situation when they joined the group? Did certain children say what they were
10 doing, what were their occupations?

11 A. [12:02:59] There were some who said that it was out of *survival. Some of
12 them were actually delinquents who left the home of their parents. Sorry, it's not
13 civic sense, because they just followed blindly. And when they had the opportunity,
14 they just left, they wanted to be soldiers. So they were basically street children
15 because they'd left their homes. So it's this category of children, and they were the
16 ones who were insisting. They were the ones who were saying.

17 Q. [12:03:45] Now, just to be a bit more specific. Did some of these children tell
18 you if they were -- if they attended school; and, if so, until what level?

19 A. [12:03:58] They said that they went to primary school. At least there was one
20 who said that he was in CM2 and he would then be basically taking an exam to enter
21 high school, the first year of high school. And he said that he was basically spotted
22 by an older child and he actually was forced to go out of his -- and he did not have a
23 choice. And this is the child that basically *mobilized children to come and meet me.
24 And I said that if that's the case, we're going to put you on the programme and even if
25 I'm -- and -- and to see what you -- what possible -- what would be the prospects of

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1 getting you back to school. So this is what happened. So he was part of the 12
2 children that went back to school.

3 Q. [12:05:12] So this child who told you that he was in CM2 and he had to basically
4 take an exam to attend the first year of high school, did he give -- did he tell you how
5 old he was?

6 A. [12:05:25] No. I did not ask him how old he was. I did not ask him.

7 Q. [12:05:33] So, can -- am I to understand that he was different from the child who
8 was 11 that you referred to?

9 A. [12:05:40] Yes. He was bigger than the other one who was 11. The one who
10 was 11 was also very -- had a very small build.

11 Q. [12:05:59] So, can you tell us, in the Central African school system, what is the
12 normal age of a child who's at CM2?

13 A. [12:06:10] It's 12 to 13 years. *Up to 14, you see.

14 MS GUISSÉ: [12:06:23](Interpretation) Your Honour, objection.

15 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:06:24] Yeah, Ms Guissé.

16 MS GUISSÉ: [12:06:29](Interpretation) Right, I don't know because it's actually all in
17 French, but my objection is again coming a bit late. The witness has already
18 answered the question, but it's really not a problem. I just wanted to say that the
19 response had been given previously where the witness said that according to the
20 provinces the children were actually enrolled at 10, so having an average is rather
21 complicated. But I will actually get back to this during my cross-examination. I
22 have no other choice.

23 But, generally, I don't know if I have to speak on a micro level, but when I get up it
24 means that I really have an objection.

25 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:07:14] However, I think to ask -- to ask the

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1 witness if in -- what is the normal age, because she is -- she might know that the
2 normal age for children in -- going to -- to -- to that educational level, I think we can
3 ask her that.

4 So do you know that, Madam Witness?

5 What was, by the way, Mr Belbenoit, the education level that you referred to? Please
6 repeat it.

7 MR BELBENOIT-AVICH: [12:07:52](Interpretation) Yes, your Honour. The
8 witness has already given the answer when I asked her the question. I don't know if
9 it appears. She said 12 to 13 years, up to 14, if the child is running late. I think this
10 has already been answered. It's in the English transcript.

11 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:08:07] Okay.

12 MR BELBENOIT-AVICH: [12:08:13](Interpretation)

13 Q. [12:08:13] Now I would like to examine you on the child who was 11 that you
14 already referred to.

15 Now, in paragraph 45 of your statement you say that he was my favourite and I said
16 that he was my -- my last darling. Now, you've already said that, but how did you
17 know that he was only 11?

18 A. [12:08:43] It's on the list. I actually *checked the list to see who the older ones
19 were and the younger ones were. And this is how I noticed that there was a child
20 who was 11. He was the only one. And I took his name. I called the head of
21 section and I said, "Can you find this child for me?" And I was the one who asked
22 him to come home -- come to the hotel so that we can discuss. I thought he was the
23 one who must be removed from that base and sent to school.

24 He said that he'd done the elementary school for a few years and after that he -- you
25 see, there's nothing to eat at home so he basically followed the others. And he's the

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1 one who went out of his own volition.

2 Q. [12:09:51] Right. So he said that he'd actually done some years of elementary
3 school, CE-I. So in terms of education -- educational levels with respect to CM1, is it
4 before or after?

5 A. [12:10:08] It's after the first level, when you actually enter the school, you
6 basically -- it's the first year of your schooling. And when you enter the school for
7 the first year, you're at CE-I. It's the elementary school. The first year of
8 elementary school.

9 Q. [12:10:33] Did you talk about this child, about his age, or did you just conclude
10 relying on that list, the ESF list, that he was 11?

11 A. [12:10:44] I asked him the question and he said he didn't know how old he was.
12 This is what he said. I mean, he said that he would be around 11, but I just wanted
13 to make sure that he was 11. You see, it's a child that can be classified as an
14 undernourished child. He was all -- he was very small. He could have been older
15 than he looked. * He should have been bigger if he was 11 years old.

16 Q. [12:11:35] When he spoke, did he have the voice of a child or an adult at that
17 point of time?

18 A. [12:11:39] No, he really had the voice of a child.

19 Q. [12:11:44] The other children whom you spoke to, did they also have the voice of
20 a child?

21 A. [12:11:48] Almost all the children. It's the ones who were 17, even some who
22 were 19 -- some would have been 19, 20. But they reduced their age because --
23 because as the NGO told them that they would only take children until 17, they --
24 sometimes when you see some you would say that they were 20.

25 MR BELBENOIT-AVICH: [12:12:34](Interpretation) Your Honour, could we go to

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1 private session, just for a few questions, please?

2 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [12:12:39] Private session.

3 (Private session at 12.12 p.m.)

4 THE COURT OFFICER: [12:12:59] We are in private session, Mr President.

5 (Redacted)

6 (Redacted)

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8 (Recess taken at 12.39 p.m.)

9 (Upon resuming in open session at 2.00 p.m.)

10 THE COURT USHER: [14:00:54] All rise.

11 Please be seated.

12 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [14:01:14] Ms Guissé, you have the floor. We are
13 in open session.

14 MS GUISSÉ: [14:01:26](Interpretation) Thank you, your Honour.

15 QUESTIONED BY MS GUISSÉ: (Interpretation)

16 Q. [14:01:28] Good day, Madam Witness.

17 A. [14:01:35] Good day.

18 Q. [14:01:36] I'm going to introduce myself again - we did have the opportunity of
19 meeting briefly during the courtesy visit - my name is Anta Guissé. I am one of the
20 lawyers for Alfred Yekatom. And on that behalf -- on his behalf, I'm going to ask
21 you questions following on from the Prosecution's questions of clarification relating
22 to what you said either today during the hearing or in your previous statement.

23 I also have questions dealing with the elements in the file, which you might not be
24 familiar with, but which will enable us to understand what you know and what you
25 don't know as regards the facts which occur to you today.

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1 We both speak French, together with the Prosecution, so it's extremely important that
2 we have a pause after my question so that interpretation can take place - and I too
3 must remember to pause before putting a new question to you; it's also important so
4 that the court reports are clear.

5 I'm going to ask you specific questions topic by topic and tell you the time frame I'm
6 referring to, I would ask you therefore to follow my timeline. Obviously, if I put
7 a question to you that isn't clear to you, don't hesitate to ask me to repeat it, and if you
8 do not know the answer, just let me know that.

9 Furthermore, I will respect your protective measures and will not ask you any
10 questions in open session which might identify you but, if at any time you have the
11 impression that any of my questions requires an answer which might identify you, let
12 me know so that I can ask the President to move into private session.

13 Until then -- until that point, do you follow what I'm saying?

14 A. [14:04:18] Yes.

15 Q. [14:04:19] I'd also like to tell the Chamber and the parties that I might refer to
16 the previous statement of the witness, which can be found in the following ERN,
17 CAR-OTP-2109-0452, and the French version, CAR-OTP-2122-4558, and I will refer to
18 it by saying, Your declaration, your statement.

19 So having completed the formalities, I'm going to start with my questioning. This
20 can be done in open session.

21 Once again, Madam, I'm going to talk about the subjects which you discussed with
22 the Prosecution and the first part of my questions are linked to the elements that you
23 mentioned in your statement during the period of the Seleka. So I'm going to start
24 with that.

25 Can we move ahead?

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1 A. [14:05:39] Yes, proceed.

2 Q. [14:05:43] In paragraph 24 of your statement, you state, and I'm quoting, the --

3 "Seleka used to gather in the large mosque in FOUH to organise themselves and to [...]

4 commit crimes."

5 And you added as regards the ransacking of the mosque in paragraph 25 of your
6 statement, and I quote again:

7 It seemed that the Seleka had a lot of weapons within the mosque. End of quote.

8 The --

9 "...Seleka had a lot of guns inside the mosque..."

10 So I understand that you personally didn't witness that, but what sort of information

11 did you obtain as regards the guns and weapons within the mosque and what the

12 imam and the faithful did at that particular level?

13 A. [14:06:53] Thank you for your question. You know -- you know, when you're

14 in a certain neighbourhood, particularly when the trouble started, you hear lots of

15 things. I'm not very far away from this particular mosque and when problems

16 started, it's the youth of the neighbourhood that were talking and saying that there

17 were lots of guns over there and that when you hear this and when you go past the

18 mosque - you heard that they had gone there to look for weapons - and that is how I

19 knew what was going on. But as you said so eloquently, it's not something I could

20 check, it's only something I've heard.

21 Q. [14:08:00] I have understood completely that this is what you've heard. But as

22 regards the atmosphere in the neighbourhood after these rumours, am I correct in

23 saying that these rumours of weapons within the mosque contributed to increase the

24 tension that already existed between the Muslim and Christian communities?

25 A. [14:08:27] Indeed, that's true. And that's why I would like to stress that in the

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1 meantime, there were weapons -- * this is what people said, rumors if you want. It
2 was said there were young people around the mosque seeking to destroy it and
3 collect the weapons. Ans this is what we were told.

4 There was such a lot of tension that I didn't really go out a lot. I used to stay in my
5 compound. But the youth in the neighbourhood came to my house and reported
6 back to me the facts and said this, and so that's why I reported it back to you as well.

7 Q. [14:09:27] I'm now going to move on to another topic.

8 Again, based on what you noticed, given the facts that occurred, in paragraph 28 of
9 your statement, you mention that the tensions existed between the Muslims that
10 owned businesses and the Christians who worked for them with -- as regards petty
11 jobs with little pay. And there you were describing a social reality and you added,
12 and I quote:

13 "Even when the UN came", end of quote, the behaviour of some of the representatives
14 of this organisation who were Muslims and were -- and I quote again:

15 "...did things that did not help the people..." End of quotation.

16 Could you elaborate? What do you mean by that? Could you give us some
17 tangible examples of what actually happened and how it was felt by the population.

18 A. [14:10:38] Yes, the population, the Christian population often said that the
19 Muslim population - who is protected by the UN - each time that something occurred,
20 they sided with the Muslims. But what I understood (Redacted), that they
21 defended the minority and I often said to those youths that generally speaking that if
22 something happens, it is the minority that you have to protect first and foremost
23 because the majority, they can defend for themselves. That is my understanding.
24 The understanding of the youth was not like that and they often said to me, "You
25 were there. You always defend the Muslims." But frankly speaking *there were

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1 not many in our neighbourhood, but this is the rumours that we had in -- from
2 Kilometre 5 and also the Combattant neighbourhood, that the Muslim community
3 was protected. It was only the mosque and the traders over there, perhaps two or
4 three, not more than that. So these are rumours that were circulating from the other
5 neighbourhoods where there were many more Muslims.

6 The UN, it's true, the... the system, in the meantime, when something had happened...
7 But you need to know there was also the issue of self-defence. And they were
8 a minority. So what did you have to do? What could you do? You had to protect
9 yourself. So perhaps that's the reason.

10 Frankly, the -- this is what the population described to me.

11 Q. [14:12:59] Just to go back to what you call "self-defence", am I correct that you're
12 talking about the Muslims who felt that they were being threatened and therefore
13 armed themselves?

14 A. [14:13:13] Yes. The majority of their aggression came from the fact that they
15 were a minority and felt that they had to protect themselves in order to go to the other
16 neighbourhoods.

17 Q. [14:13:34] I want to refer to the representatives of the UN that some members of
18 the population describe by saying that they weren't perceived as impartial, but rather
19 that they were supporting the Muslims or the Seleka.

20 Do you agree with me that you are referring to members of the United Nations who
21 were basically from Chad at that time, Chadian nationality?

22 A. [14:14:14] At the moment of this insecurity they were rather the Muslims from
23 Chad who were looking or dealing with this matter, and the fact that they were from
24 Chad and that they were Muslims was perceived by the Christian Central African
25 population that they sided more with the Muslims.

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1 Q. [14:14:58] *Am I correct in saying that they were Chadian origin where as many
2 of the Seleka or the Seleka mercenaries came from Chad? Did this contribute to the
3 distrust?

4 A. [14:15:19] Absolutely.

5 Q. [14:15:23] Do you agree with me that this behaviour, which was described by
6 part of the population, was something that was discussed on the national radio and
7 the television, saying that there were people who were concerned about these
8 members of the United Nations who came from Chad?

9 A. [14:15:47] No, I didn't hear this on the radio. In truth, I didn't hear this on the
10 television either. But it's people in the streets that spoke about this, particularly the
11 youth. They were saying this because they saw them and, according to their
12 behaviour, they saw that the Seleka came from Chad and that's why they established
13 in the United Nations' system and said that they were from Chad and came to their
14 defence. So there was something that didn't work properly. That is what people
15 were saying. When -- I didn't listen a lot to the radio, but when I did listen to the
16 radio, I didn't hear anything about that.

17 Q. [14:16:42] And this dissatisfaction as regards the Chadians from the United
18 Nations, am I correct in saying -- from the United Nations or other Chadians, am I
19 correct in saying that for the people who didn't have your understanding of things,
20 they transferred their dissatisfaction to the entire Muslim community?

21 A. [14:17:12] Yes, because of the presence of the Chadians and because of the fact
22 that the Seleka came from Chad, this exacerbated the situation.

23 Q. [14:17:38] I do apologise. I'm so sorry. I made a lengthy pause because this
24 enables the interpretation and transcript to be done, so don't think that I'm not
25 listening to you.

26 A. [14:17:57] No, no, no.

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1 Q. [14:18:02] Given this tension and the growing dissatisfaction of the population,
2 did you notice or did you hear that there were Muslims and, in particular, Chadian
3 Muslims who had been living in Chad for a long time preferred to leave the country
4 to avoid this growing tension?

5 A. [14:18:32]] *On the contrary, during the Seleka times, those groups met at
6 Kilometer 5, and they dominated the Central African population. They
7 dominated it and didn't talk about leaving. It's only afterwards when the Anti-Balaka
8 arrived that they started to think about leaving the country. And it was all types of
9 Muslims, people from Chad, from Niger, everybody -- even people from Senegal who
10 previously lived in peace but who were all referred to as Muslims regardless -- in the
11 beginning, there were no questions about leaving the country because they
12 themselves had the security situation under control, they had a way of looking at the
13 situation so in the beginning, there was no talk of that. The women, the children
14 often are the people they wanted to move away. But in the beginning, it wasn't like
15 that at all.

16 MS GUISSÉ: [14:20:05] My apologies, your Honour. My screen with the transcript
17 in English, when I can see the documents became black. Perhaps it's a connection
18 problem, but all of a sudden I have a problem to follow things on my screen.

19 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [14:20:52] Well, that would actually also be an idea
20 that could come from me, but oftentimes it really doesn't help. Did it help?

21 MS GUISSÉ: [14:21:03] No.

22 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [14:21:04] So the technician is -- yes, thank you -- on
23 the way, but I think you can continue in the meantime.

24 MS GUISSÉ: [14:21:15](Interpretation) Thank you, your Honour.

25 My problem seems to have resolved itself.

26 Q. [14:21:18] My apologies, Madam Witness. In paragraph 29 of your statement,

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1 you say you:

2 "... also heard that" - and I quote - "some Muslims were buying weapons from the
3 Seleka." End of quote.

4 When you refer to "some Muslims", which Muslims are you referring to?

5 A. [14:21:55] I'm talking about the traders -- civilian traders.

6 Q. [14:22:06] Thank you. Please be careful to have a little break of some seconds
7 before answering my question because sometimes there's an overlap.

8 Do you know when the population, generally speaking, talked about the civilian
9 Muslims who were taking arms, was there a specific name given to them or were they
10 just referred to as "Muslims"?

11 A. [14:22:43] One often said the Seleka.

12 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [14:22:49] Mr Belbenoit.

13 MR BELBENOIT-AVICH: [14:22:52] I'm sorry to interrupt. I think the witness
14 didn't say -- the witness -- they -- said -- they took arms. They -- said: The Muslims
15 who were buying weapons.

16 That's something completely different -- but taking weapons is something different
17 from buying weapons.

18 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [14:23:10] Well, yes, but I think the -- well, we can
19 clarify it.

20 Madam Witness, the Muslim traders you said that bought weapons from the Seleka,
21 were they also called "Seleka" by the population?

22 THE WITNESS: [14:23:37](Interpretation) Broadly speaking, at the time of the
23 troubles, all Muslims were Seleka. Generally, that is how the population called them.
24 All Muslims were Seleka. Now, it's true there were others who said that they were
25 buying weapons, perhaps it was for their own protection.

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1 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [14:24:08] Ms Guissé, please move on.

2 MS GUISSÉ: [14:24:15](Interpretation) Thank you, your Honour. The Prosecution
3 is completely right. My -- I didn't word it correctly, so he was completely correct in
4 pointing that out. Your Honour, for the next part, I would like to move into private
5 session because I've finished with the part we can do in open session. I think as
6 regards the answers, I will try to go into open session from time to time, but the
7 majority of what I'm going to ask now will have to be done in private session.

8 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [14:24:52] No problem. And for the audience, you
9 may have recognised that this is a protected witness and the next sequence of
10 questions will deal with issues where the answers of the witness might identify the
11 witness and because of that, we have to go to private session.

12 (Private session at 2.25 p.m.)

13 THE COURT OFFICER: [14:25:12] We are in private session, Mr President.

14 (Redacted)

15 (Redacted)

16 (Redacted)

17 (Redacted)

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21 (Open session at 2.55 p.m.)

22 THE COURT OFFICER: [14:55:09] We are in open session, Mr President.

23 MS GUISSÉ: [14:55:27](Interpretation)

24 Q. [14:55:30] Witness, we are now in open session. I'm going to try and ask you
25 questions that -- so that they are neutral and there is no risk of identification. But if

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1 there's a problem, please feel free to ask me to move to private session.

2 Now, in paragraph 33 of your statement, you say that Mr Brice Kakpayen, who was
3 a counsel and national coordinator of the NGO called ESF, went to the social affairs
4 ministry to register the NGO - and I'm quoting you, so that he is --
5 "authorised to carry out activities in the Central African Republic." End of quote.

6 Now my question is as follows, to the best of your knowledge, an NGO, can it work
7 officially with the Ministry of Social Affairs only if it is enrolled or registered with the
8 ministry?

9 A. [14:56:46] Yes, that is it. The NGO must have permission from the ministry
10 which is in charge of the activity. So if it's a security programme, it would be
11 security; if it is a health issue, then it would then be the health ministry and if it's
12 another problem, it would be the social affairs, a community problem.

13 Q. [14:57:19] To the best of your knowledge, the registration of the NGO with the
14 Ministry of Social Affairs, was a condition to obtain funds for associations that were
15 working in partnership with UNICEF?

16 A. [14:57:38] Yes. Because before UNICEF could validate its support, there should
17 be an agreement signed with the ministry.

18 MS GUISSÉ: [14:58:09](Interpretation) Your Honour, unfortunately, my efforts to
19 stay in open session are going to be rather limited. Yes, I really am forced to move to
20 private session.

21 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [14:58:22] Well, we take it as a goodwill action or is
22 more possible?

23 MS GUISSÉ: [14:58:39](Interpretation) Your Honour, perhaps later on I could come
24 back, but not know, we have to move to private session.

25 PRESIDING JUDGE SCHMITT: [14:58:46] Yes, private session.

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1 (Private session at 2.58 p.m.)

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(The hearing ends in private session at 3.20 p.m.)